

Northern Great Plains Network

Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

April 2001

Welcome to the April newsletter for 2001! As you probably read in an earlier message I sent out, I will be moving on to work for the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Denver at the end of May. As of the time of this newsletter, an interim strategy has not been developed for the Northern Great Plains Network I&M program after I leave. However, I am sure we will address this issue as a network over the next couple of weeks. We will be having a network meeting on May 9th at Mount Rushmore National Memorial in the Black Hills. The Regional I&M Coordinator, Phyllis Adams, and the National Inventory Coordinator, Mark Wotawa, will also be attending our meeting.

On-going work for the NGP Network: We have several contracts and agreements currently underway to help prepare information needed in our revised study plan.

- Cindy Reed, a consultant from the Black Hills, has submitted a draft version of her report on plant species expected to occur in the North and South Dakota parks. I will bring the draft to our meeting in May. The final report, which will likely contain additional species, is due on May 31, 2001.
- Gina Hupton, a graduate student at Univ of Minn, has begun work on a literature review for any additional, published inventory data relevant to our parks. A list of publications is due May 31, and copies of any documents that we request are due June 30.
- Walt Fertig, a botanist with the Wyoming Natural Heritage Program, has submitted final copies of reports on the documented and expected flora of Devils Tower NM and Fort Laramie NHS. Walt did an excellent job preparing these reports. I will send DETO and FOLA copies this week, and have others on hand at the May meeting.
- Mark Vierra, a temporary employee with the USGS-BRD office in Jamestown, ND, is currently developing an overall sampling strategy for inventories in our parks. Mark got his Master's degree in wildlife from Colorado State Univ and is being supervised by Glen Sargeant. His report is due at the end of May also.

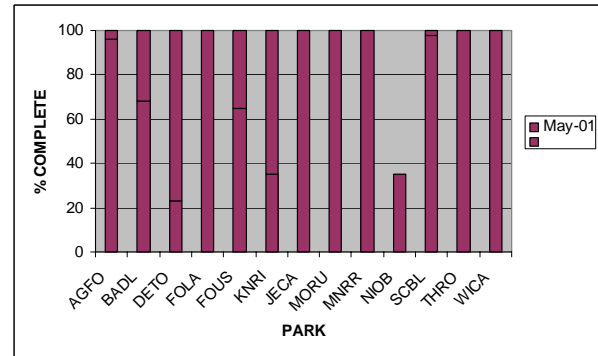
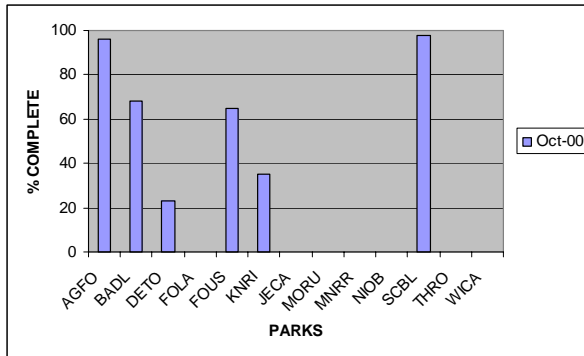
If you have any interest in reviewing any stage of any of these projects, please let me know.

New results of data mining: Our office recently received information from the Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas project which indicates that they have surveyed one atlas block at Scotts Bluff, two at Agate Fossil Beds, nine within the Niobrara NSR and thirteen within the Missouri NRR. They are currently sending us copies of their data, which will help tremendously in the effort to document bird species in Nebraska parks, particularly the river parks.

Data management:

Unfortunately, we only had three applicants for the data technician position. The position we re-opened for two more weeks and will close on May 7th. If you know any good candidates, please encourage them to apply! At this point, I do not know the qualifications of the three candidates.

In the meantime, Becky Perdaems has been continuing to populate the NPSpp database. The following graphs show what percentage of the species we have documentation for that had been entered in NPSpp by October last year and where we are now.



The NPSpp files are in the process of being converted to the web-based version. We will need to develop a strategy for park personnel to have passwords, edit data and keep track of any changes so that we are efficient and the data base stays as 'clean' as possible. Ed Delaney, the GIS specialist at Wind Cave NP, has generously volunteered to help develop a data management strategy for our network. Thanks Ed!!!

Coming up:

- Network Meeting in May!
- Hiring a data technician
- Prioritizing inventory projects and developing sampling designs
- Developing a voucher management plan